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DAMAGE FROM FOREST INSECTS IN PACIFIC NORTHWEST, SEASON OF 1930

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DAMAGE FROM FOREST INSECTS IN PACIFIC NORTHWEST SEASON OF 1930.

There was a notable decrease in the activity of the western pine beetle (Dendroctonus brevicomis Lec.) in the western yellow pine stands of Oregon and Washington due to more favorable growth conditions during the past year. The timber losses from this insect during the season are estimated as follows:

	Volume of Timber killed M.B.M	Valued at
Oregon	270,000	$ 950,000
Washington	30,000	85,000
TOTAL	300,000	$1035,000

(Estimated forest fire damage for the year on National Forest lands - $ 85,000.)

The mountain pine beetle (Dendroctonus monticolae Hopk.) continues to sweep through the lodgepole and white pine stands of this region and practically all of the susceptible trees are doomed. The epidemic has waned in many places having already killed over ninty per cent of the mature stands. The most active epidemics reported are now located on the Fremont, Deschutes, and Wallowa National Forests in Oregon and on the Rainier, Wenatchee, Chelan and Olympic National Forests in Washington. The epidemic which has been active in Crater Lake National Park during the past fifteen years is now nearly over. Control work which has been carried on during the past five years to save the intensively used areas in the south half of the Park, has been successful in accomplishing this purpose. The loss for the year in the region as a whole is estimated at 430 million board feet valued at $ 215,000.

The Douglas Fir Beetle (Dendroctonus pseudotsugae Hopk.) has been noted as active in parts of eastern Washington. On the Colville National Forest it is contributing to the death of nearly half the Douglas fir which has recently been stripped by the tussock moths. It has also been found assisting in the death of trees on the smelter fume area near Northport, Washington.

The Douglas Fir Tussock Moth (Hemerocampa pseudotsugata McD.) during the past three years has defoliated fully half of the Douglas firs on the north half of the Colville National Forest. Practically all of the heavily defoliated trees will die, as they are so weakened as to be easy prey for the Douglas Fir Beetle. The total loss for this epidemic will be approximately 300 million board feet of Douglas fir valued at $ 300,000.

An outbreak of the hemlock looper (Ellopia fervidaria) was discovered late in the fall of the year in Pacific County, Washington. At least half of the trees, mostly hemlock, on 500 acres were killed during this- the first year of defoliation. The egg laying has extended to 5,000 acres which will probably be severely defoliated next year. About 5 million board feet of hemlock have already been killed. This is valued at approximately $ 7,500.

The western hemlock over approximately 250,000 acres of the Olympic peninsula in Washington has again been defoliated by the hemlock tip moth (Peronea variana). The defoliation is not as severe as last year and it is not expected that much of the timber will die.

An outbreak of the forest tent caterpillars (Malacosoma pluvialis Dyar with probably other species) denuded the greater part of the red alder stands throughout the length of the Oregon and Washington coast. Some damage was also done to ornamentals and fruit trees. During the flight period the air was so full of the moths as to interrupt automobile traffic. By midsummer the alders had leafed out again and little permanent damage was done.

The oak looper (Ellopia somniaria) a close relative of the hemlock looper, completely defoliated all the Garry oaks on approximately 200,000 acres of the Willamette Valley in Polk County, Oregon. The infested area extended for about thirty miles between Amity and Monmouth. Besides the Garry oak, nearly all of the local forest and ornamental trees and shrubs and even fruit trees were fed upon particularly where the caterpillars occurred in abundance and ran short of their preferred food. The oaks are apparently able to recover from such defoliations and very little permanent damage is expected.

Great numbers of the white pine butterfly (Neophasia menapia) were found in Clallam County, Washington during the summer, apparently ovipositing on the Douglas firs. This is a very destructive species on western yellow pine but serious damage to Douglas fir has never been reported in the past and it is not thought that this outbreak will cause the death of any trees.

Sitka spruce along the Washington and Oregon coast is suffering from chronic insect attack. The old mature trees are chiefly affected and a high percentage are gradually dying. The most common insects found in connection with such injury are Dendroctonus obesus, Ips concinnus, Pseudohylesinus sitchensis and Aphis abietina.

Forest nuseries in the Willamette Valley, Oregon and at Wind River, Washington have sufferredsevere damage to young seedlings and transplants from the work of the strawberry root weevils (Brachyrhinus spp.). In one case about two acres of one

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and two year old stock was rendered worthless and had to be destroyed.

SUMMARY OF FOREST INSECT DAMAGE
PACIFIC NORTHWEST
SEASON 1930.

Insects Responsible	Volume of Timber Killed M.B.M.	Value of Timber Killed.
Dendroctonus brevicomis	300,000	$ 1,035,000
Dendroctonus monticolae	430,000	215,000
Hemerocampa pseudotsugata	100,000	100,000
Ellopia fervidaria	5,000	7,500
TOTAL	1,035,000	$ 1,357,500

Portland, Oregon.
December 15, 1930.

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